No. 15.

INFORMATION FOR THE ELECTORS.

The Government Proposals.

In dissolving the House and going to the country the Government of Canada give as the reason for so doing that they have, through Her Majesty's Government, made certain proposals to the United States for negotiations looking to an extension of our commerce with that country. These proposals have been submitted to the President of the United States for his consideration, and the answer made by Mr. Blaine, the Secretary of State, was an overture to Reciprocity. This immediately and naturally led the Dominion Government to consider their position. The conclusion to which they came was that before entering upon these proposed negotiations they would do well to present their views to the electors and ask their consent to the negotiations going on and their assent to the main lines which the Government proposed to adopt.

These lines are set forth in the following despatch from the Governor-General to Lord Knutsford, the Secretary of State for the Colonies in Lord Salisbury's Government:—

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA,
13th December, 1890.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to send to Your Lordship to-day a telegraphic message in cipher, of which the following is the substance:—

"With reference to my telegram of the 10th inst., the Government is desirous to propose a joint commission such as that of

1871, with authority to deal without limitation and to prepare a treaty representing the following subjects:

"1. Renewal of the reciprocity treaty of 1854, with the modifications required by the altered circumstances of both countries and with the extensions deemed by the commission to be in the interest of Canada and the United States.

"2. Reconsideration of the treaty of 1888, with respect to the Atlantic fisheries, with the aim of securing the free admission into the United States markets of Canadian fishery products, in return for facilities to be granted to United States fishermen to buy bait and supplies and to trans-ship cargoes in Canada; all such privileges to be mutual.

"3. Protection of mackerel and other fisheries on the Atlantic ocean and in inland waters also.

"4. Relaxation of seaboard coasting laws of the two countries.

"5. Relaxation of the coasting laws of the two countries on the inland waters dividing Canada from the United States.

"6. Mutual salvage and saving of wrecked vessels.

"7. Arrangements for settling the boundary between Canada and Alaska.

"The treaty would, of course, be *ad referendum*."

It will be seen at once that Sir John Macdonald's Government propose to make a decided attempt to settle all the questions in dispute between the United States and Canada. They have made many attempts before, but they have failed, sometimes from one cause and sometimes from another, always, however, from causes operating upon the Executive or the Congress of the United States.

Included among the subjects for settlement is the trade question—which has taken a new shape owing to the position assumed by the leaders of the Liberal party in Canada.

What directions shall the electors give to the Government of Canada about to undertake negotiations for some kind of trade reciprocity with our neighbours? That is the question before the electors.

The Government of Sir John Macdonald propose as a basis the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854, with such modifications as are required by the altered circumstances of both countries. That Reciprocity Treaty was confined to natural products.

The leaders of the Liberal party advocate Unrestricted Reciprocity.

Thus there is a clear, straight issue between the two parties.

Placed in parallel columns, the difference between the two parties may be stated :—

What the Liberal-Conservatives Propose to do.

1. To continue to develop home industries and the agricultural, mineral and other resources of the country in the lines laid down since 1878.

2. To keep in our own hands the power of framing our own tariff according to our own necessities.

3. Not to discriminate against Great Britain—our mother land and the great market for our products.

4. To raise our revenues by indirect taxation on customs and excise, and not by direct taxation.

5. To meet the United States in a friendly way and negotiate with them for a reciprocity arrangement on lines that shall be just and equitable and in accord with the honour and best interests of Canada so far as it can be done without infringing upon the lines above laid down.

6. To settle all outstanding disputes with the United States, or at least to show that if they are not settled it is not the Government of Canada that should be blamed.

What The Liberal Party Propose.

1. That no tariff duties are to be levied on any products of either country pasing into the other.

2. That Canada is to adopt the tariff of the United States, which is on an average twice as high as our own.

3. That we are virtually to give up the power of making our own fiscal laws—a thing which no free people has yet been craven enough to do.

4. That the tariff of the United States is to apply to all British and foreign imports—that is, that while Canada admits United States imports free of duty, she is to discriminate against Great Britain and the rest of the world, and virtually prohibit the great part of the imports which now come in therefrom.

5. That loss and ruin will result to our manufacturing industries, to our cities and seaport towns, to our wholesale and retail business, and consequently to our farmers.

6. That Canada will lose more than half her present revenue, which will have to be make up by direct taxation. The loss of revenue will be from 16 to 18 million dollars a year. The direct tax necessary to recoup this will be equivalent to $3.60 per head, or $18 for each family of five.

7. That ultimately the bond which now unites us to the motherland will be severed, and that Canada shall become a part of the United States.

In a word, the policy of the Liberal-Conservative Party is

CANADA FOR CANADIANS.

That of the Leaders of the Liberal Party is

"CANADA FOR THE YANKEES."